

REMARKS

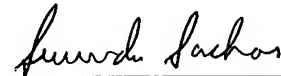
Favorable consideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-20 are pending in the present Application. Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new Claims 17-20 are presented. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced via this Amendment.

In view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this Application is in condition for examination. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Scott A. McKeown
Registration No. 42,866

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTY\ET\249806US\249806US-PA.DOC

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423